

Nonabelian dualization of plane wave backgrounds

Ladislav Hlavatý and Miroslav Turek

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Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering, Břehová 7, 115 19 Prague 1, Czech Republic

Abstract

We investigate plane-parallel wave metrics from the point of view of their (Poisson-Lie) T-dualizability. For that purpose we reconstruct the metrics as backgrounds of nonlinear sigma models on Lie groups. For construction of dual backgrounds we use Drinfel'd doubles obtained from the isometry groups of the metrics.

We find dilaton fields that enable to satisfy the vanishing beta equations for the duals of the homogenous plane-parallel wave metric. Torsion potentials or B -fields, invariant w.r.t. the isometry group of Lobachevski plane waves are obtained by the Drinfel'd double construction.

We show that a certain kind of plurality, different from the (atomic) Poisson-Lie T-plurality, may exist in case that metrics admit several isometry subgroups having the dimension of the Riemannian manifold. An example of that are two different backgrounds dual to the homogenous plane-parallel wave metric.

Keywords: Sigma model, string duality, pp-wave background

1 Introduction

Sigma models can serve as models of string theory in curved and time-dependent backgrounds. Solution of sigma-models in such backgrounds is

often very complicated, not to say impossible. On the other hand, there are many backgrounds whose properties were thoroughly investigated and it is therefore interesting to find if they can be transformed to some others. Important example of such transformation is so called Poisson Lie T-duality.

In their seminal work [1] Klimčík and Ševera set conditions for dualizability of backgrounds and gave formulas for their transformation. Since then several examples of dualizable sigma models were constructed, see e.g. [2], [3], [4]. Unfortunately, most of the examples are not physically interesting. The purpose of this paper is to show that physical backgrounds that admit sufficiently large group of isometries are naturally dualizable and therefore equivalent in a sense to some others. In this paper we are going to investigate four-dimensional plane-parallel wave metrics [5, 6, 7, 8] from this point of view.

The basic concept used for construction of dualizable sigma models is Drinfel'd double – Lie group with additional structure. The Drinfel'd double for a sigma model living in curved background can sometimes be found from the knowledge of symmetry group of the metric. More precisely, in the Drinfel'd double there are two equally dimensional subgroups whose Lie algebras are isotropic subspaces of the Lie algebra of the Drinfel'd double. In case that the metric has sufficient number of independent Killing vectors, the isometry group of the metric (or its subgroup) can be taken as one of the subgroups of the Drinfel'd double. The other one then must be chosen abelian in order to satisfy the conditions of dualizability. Short summary of the dualization procedure described e.g. in [9] is given in the next section.

2 Elements of Poisson-Lie T-dual sigma-models

Let G be a Lie group and \mathcal{G} its Lie algebra. Sigma model on the group G is given by the classical action

$$S_F[\phi] = \int d^2\sigma \partial_- \phi^\mu F_{\mu\nu}(\phi) \partial_+ \phi^\nu, \quad (1)$$

where F is a second order tensor field on the Lie group G . The functions $\phi^\nu: \mathbf{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$, $\mu = 1, 2, \dots, \dim(G)$, are determined by the composition $\phi^\mu = x^\mu \circ g$ where $g: \mathbf{R}^2 \ni (\sigma_+, \sigma_-) \mapsto g(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) \in G$ and $x^\mu: \mathbf{U}_g \rightarrow \mathbf{R}$ are components of a coordinate map of neighborhood \mathbf{U}_g of element $g(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) \in G$.

Equivalently the action can be expressed as

$$S_F[g] = \int d^2x R_-(g)^a E_{ab}(g) R_+(g)^b, \quad (2)$$

where R_\pm are right-invariant fields $R_\pm(g) := (\partial_\pm g g^{-1})^a T_a \in \mathcal{G}$. The relationship between E and F is given by the formula

$$F_{\mu\nu}(x) = e_\mu^a(g(x)) E_{ab}(g(x)) e_\nu^b(g(x)), \quad (3)$$

where $e_\mu^a(g(x))$ are the components of right invariant forms $e_\mu^a = ((dg)g^{-1})_\mu^a$. The equations of motion derived from the action (1) have the following form

$$\partial_- \partial_+ \phi^\mu + \Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu \partial_- \phi^\nu \partial_+ \phi^\lambda = 0, \quad (4)$$

where $\Gamma_{\nu\lambda}^\mu$ are components of the Levi-Civita connection associated with the second order tensor field F . This tensor field is a composition of the metric (a symmetric part) and the torsion potential (an antisymmetric part). The condition of dualizability of sigma-models on the level of the Lagrangian is given by the formula [1]

$$\mathcal{L}_{v_i} F_{\mu\nu} = F_{\mu\kappa} v_j^\kappa \tilde{c}_i^{jk} v_k^\lambda F_{\lambda\nu}, \quad (5)$$

where \tilde{c}_i^{jk} are structure coefficients of the dual algebra $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ and v_i are left-invariant fields on the Lie group G . The algebras \mathcal{G} and $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ then define the Drinfel'd double that enables to construct tensor F satisfying (5).

2.1 The Drinfel'd double and Poisson–Lie T–duality

As mentioned in the Introduction the Drinfel'd double D is defined as a connected Lie group whose Lie algebra \mathcal{D} can be decomposed into pair of sub-algebras $\mathcal{G}, \tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ maximally isotropic with respect to a symmetric ad-invariant nondegenerate bilinear form $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ on \mathcal{D} .

Under the condition (5) the field equations (4) for the σ -model can be rewritten as equation for the mapping $l(\sigma_+, \sigma_-)$ from the world-sheet \mathbf{R}^2 into the Drinfel'd double D

$$\langle (\partial_\pm l) l^{-1}, \varepsilon^\mp \rangle = 0, \quad (6)$$

where subspaces $\varepsilon^+ = \text{span}(T^i + E^{ij}(e)\tilde{T}_j)$, $\varepsilon^- = \text{span}(T^i - E^{ij}(e)\tilde{T}_j)$ are orthogonal w.r.t. $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and span the whole Lie algebra \mathcal{D} . $\{T^i\}$, $\{\tilde{T}_j\}$ are the bases of \mathcal{G} and $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$.

Due to Drinfel'd, there exists unique decomposition (at least in the vicinity of the unit element of D) of an arbitrary element l of D as a product of elements from G and \tilde{G} . The solutions of equation (6) and solution $\phi^\mu(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) = (x^\mu \circ g)(\sigma_+, \sigma_-)$ of the equation(4) are related by

$$l(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) = g(\sigma_+, \sigma_-)\tilde{h}(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) \in D, \quad (7)$$

where $g \in G$, $\tilde{h} \in \tilde{G}$ fulfil the equations

$$(\partial_+ \tilde{h} \tilde{h}^{-1})_a = -(\partial_+ g g^{-1})^b E_{cb}(g) d_a^c(g) \quad (8)$$

$$(\partial_- \tilde{h} \tilde{h}^{-1})_a = (\partial_- g g^{-1})^b E_{bc}(g) d_a^c(g), \quad (9)$$

The matrix $E(g)$ of the dualizable σ -model is of the form

$$E(g) = [E_0^{-1} + \Pi(g)]^{-1}, \quad (10)$$

where E_0 is a constant matrix, $\Pi(g)$ is given by the formula

$$\Pi(g) = b(g).a(g)^{-1} = -\Pi^t(g) \quad (11)$$

and matrices $a(g), b(g), d(g)$ are given by the adjoint representation of the Lie subgroup G on the Lie algebra of the Drinfel'd double in the basis $\{T^i, \tilde{T}_j\}^1$

$$Ad(g)^t = \begin{pmatrix} a(g) & 0 \\ b(g) & d(g) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (12)$$

Let us note that E_0 is the value of $E(g)$ in the unit e of the group G because $b(e) = \Pi(e) = 0$.

The dual model can be obtain by the exchange

$$G \leftrightarrow \tilde{G}, \quad \mathcal{G} \leftrightarrow \tilde{\mathcal{G}}, \quad \Pi(g) \leftrightarrow \tilde{\Pi}(\tilde{g}), \quad E_0 \leftrightarrow E_0^{-1}. \quad (13)$$

Solutions of the equations of motion of dual models are mutually associated by the relation

$$l(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) = g(\sigma_+, \sigma_-)\tilde{h}(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) = \tilde{g}(\sigma_+, \sigma_-)h(\sigma_+, \sigma_-). \quad (14)$$

¹The superscript t means transposition of the matrix

2.2 Poisson–Lie T–plurality

Generally, more than two decompositions² (*Manin triples*) of Lie algebra \mathcal{D} of the Drinfel'd double can exist. This possibility leads to *Poisson–Lie T–plurality*. Let $(\hat{\mathcal{G}}|\bar{\mathcal{G}})$ is another decomposition of the Drinfel'd algebra $\mathcal{D} = (\mathcal{G}|\tilde{\mathcal{G}})$ into a pair of maximal isotropic subalgebras. Then the Poisson–Lie T–plural sigma model is given by the following formulas [10]

$$\hat{E}(\hat{g}) = (\hat{E}_0^{-1} + \hat{\Pi}(\hat{g}))^{-1}, \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Pi}(\hat{g}) &= \hat{b}(\hat{g}) \cdot \hat{a}(\hat{g})^{-1}, \\ \hat{E}_0 &= (K + E_0 \cdot R)^{-1} \cdot (Q + E_0 \cdot S), \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

where the matrices K, Q, R, S determine the relationship between the bases of the appropriate decompositions $\mathcal{G}, \tilde{\mathcal{G}}$ and $\hat{\mathcal{G}}, \bar{\mathcal{G}}$

$$\begin{pmatrix} T \\ \tilde{T} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} K & Q \\ R & S \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{T} \\ \bar{T} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (17)$$

The relationship between the classical solutions of the two Poisson–Lie T–plural sigma-models is given by a possibility of two decompositions of the element $l \in D$ as

$$l(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) = g(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) \tilde{h}(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) = \hat{g}(\sigma_+, \sigma_-) \bar{h}(\sigma_+, \sigma_-). \quad (18)$$

The Poisson–Lie T–duality is then a special case of Poisson–Lie T–plurality for $K = S = 0, Q = R = 1$.

3 Homogenous plane wave metrics

Homogenous plane wave is generally defined by the metric of the following form [5],[6]

$$ds^2 = 2dudv - A_{ij}(u)x^i x^j du^2 + dx^2, \quad (19)$$

where dx^2 is the standard metrics on Euclidean space \mathbf{E}^d and $x \in \mathbf{E}^d$. The form of this metric seems to be simple, but explicit construction of sigma models can be very complicated. Therefore, we have focused on the special case of isotropic homogenous plane wave metric $A_{ij}(u) = \lambda(u)\delta_{ij}$

$$ds^2 = 2dudv - \lambda(u)x^2 du^2 + dx^2. \quad (20)$$

²Two decompositions always exist, $(\mathcal{G}|\tilde{\mathcal{G}}), (\tilde{\mathcal{G}}|\mathcal{G})$

Metric (20) has a number of symmetries important for the construction of the dualizable sigma models. It admits the following Killing vectors

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \partial_v \\ X_i &= a\partial_i - \partial_u a x_i \partial_v \\ R_{ij} &= x_i \partial_j - x_j \partial_i, \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

where $a(u)$ satisfies

$$\partial_u^2 a + \lambda a = 0. \tag{22}$$

The Killing vectors R_{ij} are generators of orthogonal rotations in \mathbf{E}^d . For special choice of

$$\lambda(u) = \frac{k}{u^2}, \quad k = \text{const.} \tag{23}$$

there are further isometries related to the scaling of the light-cone coordinates

$$u \rightarrow \kappa u, \quad v \rightarrow \kappa^{-1} v. \tag{24}$$

The specific form of λ enables us to calculate the function $a(u)$ explicitly. The Killing vectors of the metric (20) for $\lambda(u) = \frac{k}{u^2}$ are

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \partial_v \\ X_i &= u^\nu \partial_i - \nu u^{\nu-1} x_i \partial_v \\ \tilde{X}_i &= u^{1-\nu} \partial_i - (1-\nu) u^{-\nu} x_i \partial_v \\ D &= u \partial_u - v \partial_v \\ R_{ij} &= x_i \partial_j - x_j \partial_i, \end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

where D is the generator associated with the scaling symmetry and $k = \nu - \nu^2$.

In the following we shall investigate the case $d = 2$. It means that the metric tensor in coordinates (u, v, x, y) reads

$$G_{ij}(u, v, x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-k(x^2+y^2)}{u^2} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{26}$$

This metric is not flat but its Gaussian curvature vanishes. Note that it has singularity in $u = 0$. It does not satisfy the Einstein equations but the

conformal invariance conditions equations for vanishing of the β -function

$$0 = R_{ij} - \nabla_i \nabla_j \Phi - \frac{1}{4} H_{imn} H_j^{mn}, \quad (27)$$

$$0 = \nabla^k \Phi H_{kij} + \nabla^k H_{kij}, \quad (28)$$

$$0 = R - 2 \nabla_k \nabla^k \Phi - \nabla_k \Phi \nabla^k \Phi - \frac{1}{12} H_{kmn} H^{kmn} \quad (29)$$

where the covariant derivatives ∇_k , Ricci tensor R_{ij} and Gauss curvature R are calculated from the metric G_{ij} that is also used for lowering and raising indices. Torsion H in this case vanishes and dilaton field is [5]

$$\Phi = \Phi_0 - c u + 2\nu(\nu - 1) \ln u. \quad (30)$$

The metric (26) admits the following Killing vectors³

$$\begin{aligned} K_1 &= \partial_v \\ K_2 &= u^\nu \partial_x - \nu u^{\nu-1} x \partial_v \\ K_3 &= u^\nu \partial_y - \nu u^{\nu-1} y \partial_v \\ K_4 &= u^{1-\nu} \partial_x - (1-\nu) u^{-\nu} x \partial_v \\ K_5 &= u^{1-\nu} \partial_y - (1-\nu) u^{-\nu} y \partial_v \\ K_6 &= u \partial_u - v \partial_v \\ K_7 &= x \partial_y - y \partial_x \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

One can easily check that the Lie algebra spanned by these vectors is the semidirect sum $\mathcal{S} \ltimes \mathcal{N}$ where $\mathcal{S} = \text{Span}[K_6, K_7]$ and ideal $\mathcal{N} = \text{Span}[K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4, K_5]$. The algebra \mathcal{S} is abelian and its generators can be interpreted as dilation in u, v and rotation in x, y . Generators of the algebra \mathcal{N} commute as two-dimensional Heisenberg algebra with the center K_1 .

3.1 Construction of dual metrics

As explained in Section 2, dualizable metric can be constructed by virtue of Drinfel'd double. For this goal the Lie algebra \mathcal{D} of the Drinfel'd double can be composed from the four-dimensional Lie subalgebra \mathcal{G} isomorphic to the four-dimensional subalgebra of Killing vectors and four-dimensional Abelian

³ If $\nu = 1/2$, i.e. $k = 1/4$ then $K_2 = K_4$, $K_3 = K_5$

algebra⁴ $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}$. Moreover, the four-dimensional subgroup of isometries must act freely and transitively [1] on the Riemannian manifold M where the metric (20,23) is defined so that $M \approx G$.

Using the method described in [12] for semisimple algebras we find that up to the transformation $\nu \mapsto 1 - \nu$, i.e. $k \mapsto k$ there are six classes of four-dimensional subalgebras of the isometry algebra of the homogeneous plane wave metric isomorphic to

- $Span[K_1, K_2 + \rho K_5, K_3 + \sigma K_5, K_4 + \tau K_5]$
- $Span[K_1, K_2, K_3, K_7]$
- $Span[K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_7]$
- $Span[K_1, K_2, K_4, K_6]$
- $Span[K_1, K_2, K_5, K_6]$
- $Span[K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_1, K_7]$

where ρ, σ, τ are arbitrary parameters.

Infinitesimal form of transitivity condition can be formulated as requirement that four independent Killing vectors can be taken as basis vectors of four-dimensional vector distribution in M . In other words, these Killing vectors must form a basis of tangent space in every point of M . It means that in every point of M there is an invertible matrix $A(u, v, x, y)$ that solves the equation

$$\partial_\alpha = A_\alpha^\beta(u, v, x, y) X_\beta, \quad (32)$$

where $\alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3, 4$, $\partial_\alpha = \partial_u, \partial_v, \partial_x, \partial_y$ and X_β form a basis of the subalgebra.

Infinitesimal form of requirement that the action of the isometry subgroup is free says that if in any point of M there is a vector of the corresponding Lie subalgebra such that its action on the point vanishes then it must be null vector.

By inspection we can find that the only four-dimensional subalgebras that generate transitive actions on M are isomorphic to $Span[K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 +$

⁴It is easy to see, that the equation (5) is then fulfilled.

$\rho K_7]$ or $\text{Span}[K_1, K_2, K_5, K_6]$. Their non-vanishing commutation relations are

$$\begin{aligned} [K_6 + \rho K_7, K_1] &= K_1, \\ [K_6 + \rho K_7, K_2] &= \nu K_2 - \rho K_3, \\ [K_6 + \rho K_7, K_3] &= \nu K_3 + \rho K_2, \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} [K_6, K_1] &= K_1, \\ [K_6, K_2] &= \nu K_2, \\ [K_6, K_5] &= (1 - \nu) K_5, \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

respectively where ν and ρ are real parameters. One can also check that the action of both corresponding groups of isometries is free. In the following we shall find metric dual to (26) that follows from its Drinfel'd double description where \mathcal{G} is isomorphic either to algebra spanned by $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_7)$ or by (K_1, K_2, K_5, K_6) .

Let us start with construction of the Drinfel'd double following from the algebra isomorphic to (33) and dual Abelian algebra. Assume that the Lie algebra \mathcal{G} is spanned by elements X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 with commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned} [X_4, X_1] &= X_1, \\ [X_4, X_2] &= \nu X_2 - \rho X_3, \\ [X_4, X_3] &= \nu X_3 + \rho X_2, \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

where ν and ρ are arbitrary real parameters. The basis of left-invariant vector fields of the group generated by \mathcal{G} is

$$\begin{aligned} &e^{x_4} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \\ &e^{\nu x_4} \cos(\rho x_4) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} - e^{\nu x_4} \sin(\rho x_4) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}, \\ &e^{\nu x_4} \sin(\rho x_4) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2} + e^{\nu x_4} \cos(\rho x_4) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}, \\ &\frac{\partial}{\partial x_4}, \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

where x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 are group coordinates used in parametrization

$$g = e^{x_1 X_1} e^{x_2 X_2} e^{x_3 X_3} e^{x_4 X_4}. \quad (37)$$

To be able to obtain the metric (26) by the Drinfel'd double construction first we have to transform it into the group coordinates. Transformation between group coordinates x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 and geometrical coordinates u, v, x, y is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= e^{x_4} \\ v &= [-\frac{1}{2}\nu(x_2^2 + x_3^2) + x_1]e^{-x_4} \\ x &= x_2 \cos(\rho x_4) - x_3 \sin(\rho x_4) \\ y &= x_3 \cos(\rho x_4) + x_2 \sin(\rho x_4). \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

It converts the Killing vectors $K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_7$ into the left-invariant vector fields (36) and the metric (26) into the form

$$F_{ij}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -\nu x_2 - \rho x_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -\nu x_3 + \rho x_2 \\ 1 & -\nu x_2 - \rho x_3 & -\nu x_3 + \rho x_2 & -2x_1 + (\nu^2 + \rho^2)(x_2^2 + x_3^2) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (39)$$

that is obtainable by (3) and (10). To get the matrix E_0 necessary for construction of the dual model we note that it is given by the value of $E(g)$ in the unit of the group, i.e. by value of F_{ij} for $x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = x_4 = 0$.

$$E_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (40)$$

The dual tensor on the Abelian group \tilde{G} constructed by the procedure explained in the Section 2, namely by using (3),(10) and (13) is

$$\tilde{F}_{ij}(\tilde{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(\nu^2 + \rho^2)(\tilde{x}_2^2 + \tilde{x}_3^2)}{\tilde{x}_1^2 - 1} & \frac{\nu \tilde{x}_2 - \rho \tilde{x}_3}{1 - \tilde{x}_1} & \frac{\nu \tilde{x}_3 + \rho \tilde{x}_2}{1 - \tilde{x}_1} & \frac{1}{1 - \tilde{x}_1} \\ \frac{-\nu \tilde{x}_2 + \rho \tilde{x}_3}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{-\nu \tilde{x}_3 - \rho \tilde{x}_2}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (41)$$

One can see that the dual tensor has also antisymmetric part (\tilde{B} -field or torsion potential)

$$\tilde{B}_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}(\tilde{F}_{ij} - \tilde{F}_{ji}). \quad (42)$$

and its torsion $\tilde{H} = d\tilde{B}$ is

$$\tilde{H} = \frac{2\rho}{\tilde{x}_1^2 - 1} d\tilde{x}_1 \wedge d\tilde{x}_2 \wedge d\tilde{x}_3. \quad (43)$$

The Gauss curvature of its symmetric part vanishes but the Ricci tensor is nontrivial. Dual metric that is symmetric part of (41) does not solve the Einstein equations either but again we can satisfy conformal invariance conditions (27)–(29) by the dilaton field

$$\tilde{\Phi} = \tilde{\Phi}_0 + C \ln \left(\frac{\tilde{x}_1 - 1}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} \right) - \nu(\nu + 1) \ln(\tilde{x}_1^2 - 1). \quad (44)$$

If we use the subalgebra of isometries spanned by (K_1, K_2, K_5, K_6) instead of that spanned by $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_7)$ then the transformation between group coordinates x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 and geometrical coordinates u, v, x, y is

$$\begin{aligned} u &= e^{x_4} \\ v &= \frac{1}{2} [2x_1 - \nu(x_2^2 - x_3^2) - x_3^2] e^{-x_4} \\ x &= x_2 \\ y &= x_3, \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

the matrix E_0 gets again the form (40) and we get another tensor dual to (26)

$$\tilde{F}_{ij}(\tilde{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\nu^2 \tilde{x}_2^2 + (1-\nu)^2 \tilde{x}_3^2}{\tilde{x}_1^2 - 1} & \frac{\nu \tilde{x}_2}{1 - \tilde{x}_1} & \frac{(\nu-1) \tilde{x}_3}{1 - \tilde{x}_1} & \frac{1}{1 - \tilde{x}_1} \\ -\frac{\nu \tilde{x}_2}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{(\nu-1) \tilde{x}_3}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{1}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (46)$$

Even though it is not symmetric its torsion is zero. It satisfies the conformal invariance conditions (27)–(29) with the dilaton field

$$\tilde{\Phi} = \tilde{\Phi}_0 + C \ln \left(\frac{\tilde{x}_1 - 1}{\tilde{x}_1 + 1} \right) + (\nu - 1 - \nu^2) \ln(\tilde{x}_1^2 - 1). \quad (47)$$

4 Lobachevsky plane waves

Another type of metrics that have rather large group of isometries are so called Lobachevsky plane waves [7, 8]. They are of general form

$$G_{ij}(u, v, x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{H(u, x, y)}{b^2 x^2} & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (48)$$

They satisfy Einstein equation with cosmological constant $3b^2$ iff

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} H(u, x, y) - \frac{2}{x} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} H(u, x, y) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} H(u, x, y) = 0 \quad (49)$$

The Gauss curvature of this metric is $-12b^2$. For special forms of function H the metric (48) admits various sets of Killing vectors. All of them are subalgebras of a vector space spanned by

$$\begin{aligned} K_I &= \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \\ K_{II} &= u \frac{\partial}{\partial u} - v \frac{\partial}{\partial v} \\ K_{III} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial u} \\ K_{IV} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ K_V &= y \frac{\partial}{\partial v} - u \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ K_{VI} &= (2 - \alpha) u \frac{\partial}{\partial u} + (2 + \alpha) v \frac{\partial}{\partial v} + 2x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + 2y \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ K_{VII} &= u^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial u} - \frac{1}{2}(x^2 + y^2) \frac{\partial}{\partial v} + ux \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + uy \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

A bit surprisingly, all these seven independent vector fields found in [7] form a Lie algebra even though they are not Killing vectors of the same metrics (it depends on the form of $H(u, x, y)$). We are interested in metrics that admit at least four independent Killing vectors because they can be interpreted as dualizable backgrounds for sigma models in four dimensions.

As mentioned in the Section 3.1, for construction of dualizable metrics we need a four-dimensional subalgebra of Killing vectors that generates group of isometries that acts freely and transitively on the four-dimensional Riemannian manifolds. Here we shall investigate metrics of the form (48) where that $H = x^\alpha$, i.e

$$G_{ij}(u, v, x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{x^{\alpha-2}}{b^2} & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (51)$$

It solves the Einstein equation with the cosmological constant $3b^2$ for $\alpha = 3$ [11].

4.1 Construction of the dual metric

The metric (51) has five-dimensional Lie group of isometries generated by the Killing vectors $K_I, K_{III}, K_{IV}, K_V, K_{VI}$. Their nonzero commutators read

$$\begin{aligned} [K_I, K_{VI}] &= (2 + \alpha) K_I, \\ [K_{III}, K_V] &= -K_{IV}, \\ [K_{III}, K_{VI}] &= (2 - \alpha) K_{III}, \\ [K_{IV}, K_V] &= K_I, \\ [K_{IV}, K_{VI}] &= 2 K_{IV}, \\ [K_V, K_{VI}] &= \alpha K_V. \end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

Four-dimensional subalgebras of the Lie algebra (52) for generic α are isomorphic to one of the following algebras:

- $Span[K_I, K_{III}, K_{IV}, K_{VI} + \beta K_V]$
- $Span[K_I, K_{III}, K_{IV}, K_V]$
- $Span[K_I, K_{IV}, K_V, \delta K_{III} + \gamma K_{VI}]$

It is easy to check that the only subalgebra of these that satisfy the condition of transitivity (32) in every point of M is the first one. Its action is free on M as well so that we can use it for dualization of the metric (51).

In the following we shall consider the case $\beta = 0$ because $\beta \neq 0$ do not bring anything qualitatively different. It means that for dualization we shall use the algebra \mathcal{G} spanned by $K_I, K_{III}, K_{IV}, K_{VI}$ with nonzero commutation relations

$$\begin{aligned} [K_I, K_{VI}] &= (2 + \alpha) K_I, \\ [K_{III}, K_{VI}] &= (2 - \alpha) K_{III}, \\ [K_{IV}, K_{VI}] &= 2 K_{IV}. \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

The corresponding Drinfel'd double is generated by the algebra \mathcal{G} defined by the commutation relations (53) and four-dimensional Abelian algebra. The basis of left-invariant vector fields of the group generated by \mathcal{G} is

$$e^{-(2+\alpha)x_4} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, e^{-(2-\alpha)x_4} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_2}, e^{-2x_4} \frac{\partial}{\partial x_3}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_4} \quad (54)$$

where x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 are group coordinates used in parametrization

$$g(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = e^{x_1 X_1} e^{x_2 X_2} e^{x_3 X_3} e^{x_4 X_4}$$

and X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4 are generators of \mathcal{G} satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} [X_1, X_4] &= (2 + \alpha) X_1, \\ [X_2, X_4] &= (2 - \alpha) X_2, \\ [X_3, X_4] &= 2 X_3. \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

Transformation between group coordinates and coordinates u, v, x, y of the Lobachevsky manifold is

$$\begin{aligned} x_1 &= v x^{-1-\frac{\alpha}{2}}, \\ x_2 &= u x^{-1+\frac{\alpha}{2}}, \\ x_3 &= \frac{y}{x}, \\ x_4 &= \frac{1}{2} \ln(x). \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

This transformation converts the Killing vectors $K_I, K_{III}, K_{IV}, K_{VI}$ into the left-invariant vector fields (54) and the metric (51) into

$$F_{ij}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2} & 0 & \frac{x_2(\alpha-2)}{b^2} \\ -\frac{1}{b^2} & -\frac{1}{b^2} & 0 & \frac{x_2(\alpha-2)-x_1(\alpha+2)}{b^2} \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2} & -\frac{2x_3}{b^2} \\ \frac{x_2(\alpha-2)}{b^2} & \frac{x_2(\alpha-2)-x_1(\alpha+2)}{b^2} & -\frac{2x_3}{b^2} & \frac{-x_2^2(\alpha-2)^2-4(x_3^2+1)+2x_1x_2(\alpha^2-4)}{b^2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The value of this metric for $x_1 = x_2 = x_3 = x_4 = 0$, i.e. in the unit of the group, gives the matrix

$$E_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2} & 0 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{b^2} & -\frac{1}{b^2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{4}{b^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (57)$$

Having this matrix we can construct the dual tensor. It is again obtained using (3), (10) and (13) and has the form

$$\bar{F}_{ij}(\bar{x}) = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{b^2(\bar{x}_2^2(\alpha-2)^2b^4+4)}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} & \frac{4b^2-b^6\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_2(\alpha^2-4)}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} & 0 & \frac{b^4(\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} \\ \frac{4b^2-b^6\bar{x}_1\bar{x}_2(\alpha^2-4)}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} & -\frac{b^6\bar{x}_1^2(\alpha+2)^2}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} & 0 & -\frac{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} \\ 0 & 0 & -b^2 & 0 \\ -\frac{b^4(\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} & \frac{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} & 0 & \frac{b^2}{b^4\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2)(2\bar{x}_2(\alpha-2)+\bar{x}_1(\alpha+2))-4} \end{pmatrix}.$$

This tensor has nonzero and nonconstant Gauss curvature and torsion.

4.2 B -field

The Drinfel'd double construction enables to add the B -field (torsion potential) to the metric so that the resulting tensor $G' = G + B$ is invariant with respect to the same isometry group as the metric itself. Namely, changing E_0 to⁵

$$E_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2} + \beta_1 & \beta_2 & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{b^2} - \beta_1 & -\frac{1}{b^2} & \beta_3 & 0 \\ -\beta_2 & -\beta_3 & -\frac{1}{b^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -\frac{4}{b^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (58)$$

and applying the formula (3), (10), we get covariant tensor that after the transformation (56) acquires the form

$$G'_{ij}(u, v, x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{x^{\alpha-2}}{b^2} & -\frac{\beta_1 b^2 + 1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 & x^{\frac{\alpha}{2}-2} \beta_3 \\ \frac{b^2 \beta_1 - 1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 & 0 & x^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}-2} \beta_2 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} & 0 \\ -x^{\frac{\alpha}{2}-2} \beta_3 & -x^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}-2} \beta_2 & 0 & -\frac{1}{b^2 x^2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (59)$$

Its symmetric part is the metric (51). This tensor is again invariant with respect to the isometry group generated by $K_I, K_{III}, K_{IV}, K_{VI}$. For $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$ the invariant group can be extended by the generator K_V .

⁵Other antisymmetric elements do not change torsion

Torsion $H = dB$ obtained from the antisymmetric part of G' is

$$H = -4\beta_1 du \wedge dv \wedge dy - \beta_2(4 + \alpha) du \wedge dx \wedge dy - \beta_3(4 - \alpha) dv \wedge dx \wedge dy \quad (60)$$

As the tensor (59) was obtained by the Drinfel'd double construction it is possible to dualize it but the result is too extensive to display.

5 Conclusion

Isometry groups of metrics can be used for construction of their (nonabelian) T-dual backgrounds. Sufficient condition for that is that the metric have an isometry subgroup whose dimension is equal to the dimension of the Riemannian manifold and its action on the manifold is transitive and free.

We have shown that for the plane wave metrics (26) and (51) such isometry subgroups exist and the metrics can be dualized by the Poisson–Lie T-duality transformation. We have determined the metrics and B-fields dual to the plane waves. For homogeneous plane waves (26) we have also found the dilaton field that guarantees conformal invariance of the dual metric.

Metrics that possess isometry group whose dimension is greater than the dimension of the Riemannian manifold may have several duals. More precisely, if the metric admits various isometry subgroups with above given properties then we can construct several backgrounds dual to the metric. This phenomenon is another kind of plurality of sigma models different from the Poisson–Lie T-plurality described in the Section 2.

An example of this type of plurality is provided by the plane wave metric (26) with isometry subgroups generated by Killing vectors $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_7)$ or by (K_1, K_2, K_5, K_6) (see (31) producing two dual backgrounds (41) and (46). To decide if this plurality is different from the Poisson–Lie T-plurality one has to check whether the eight-dimensional Drinfel'd doubles generated by the four-dimensional abelian algebra and algebras spanned by $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_6 + \rho K_7)$ or (K_1, K_2, K_5, K_6) are isomorphic by a transformation that leave the constant matrix (40) invariant. This is, however, very difficult task that might be investigated in the future.

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